



# NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **END OF AN ERA: JOANNE THOMKA CONCLUDES REMARKABLE CAREER AT NDAA'S NATIONAL TRAFFIC LAW CENTER**

**Arlington, VA** – As she embarks on an exciting new chapter of her life, the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) bids a fond farewell to Joanne Thomka, Director of the National Traffic Law Center (NTLC), who is retiring after 15 years of dedicated service. Her last day will be March 29, 2024, marking the end of an era for the NDAA and NTLC.

Joanne's journey with the NDAA began in 2006, bringing with her a wealth of experience as a former Senior Assistant District Attorney for the Onondaga County District Attorney's Office in Syracuse, New York. Her tenure at the Onondaga County DA's Office, where she served as the Bureau Chief of the DWI Unit, showcased her unwavering commitment to justice and victims' rights, particularly in cases related to vehicular crimes and highway safety. Joanne's expertise and commitment to justice extended far beyond the courtroom as she became a nationally recognized figure in traffic safety advocacy.

Transitioning to the national stage, Joanne's leadership at the NTLC was nothing short of transformative. As Director of the NTLC, Joanne spearheaded initiatives to provide essential training, resources, and guidance to prosecutors and law enforcement, significantly enhancing the quality of traffic safety prosecutions across the United States. Her expertise on complex issues like impaired driving, drug toxicology, and commercial driver regulation was instrumental in shaping effective legal strategies for the traffic safety community.

"Joanne's tireless dedication to saving lives on our nation's roadways through her work both at NDAA and in the broader traffic safety community is a hallmark of her career that deserves tremendous gratitude and respect," said **Nelson Bunn, Executive Director of NDAA**. "Her retirement is bittersweet for us at NDAA and a loss to the traffic safety community that will leave big shoes to fill. We wish her the absolute best and know that she will always be part of our NDAA family."

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Joanne's warm personality and collaborative spirit fostered a strong sense of community among traffic safety professionals. Her legacy within the NDAA and beyond is one of dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment to justice.

As Joanne embarks on the next chapter of her life, her legacy remains an indelible part of NTLC, NDAA, and the broader traffic safety community. Her standard of excellence and unwavering dedication will continue to inspire future generations of advocates. The NDAA expresses profound gratitude for Joanne Thomka's remarkable contributions and wishes her a fulfilling retirement filled with the same passion that defined her career.



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**About the National District Attorneys Association:**

*Formed in 1950, NDAA is the oldest and largest national organization representing state and local prosecutors in the country. With over 6,000 members representing over two thirds of the state and local prosecutors' offices, NDAA is recognized as the leading source of national expertise on the prosecution function and is a valuable resource for the media, academia, government, and community leaders. NDAA's mission is to provide state and local prosecutors with the knowledge, skills, and support they need to ensure that justice is done and that public safety rights are protected.*

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**Media Contact:**

Natalie Harrell, NDAA Director of Communications  
[Nharrell@ndaajustice.org](mailto:Nharrell@ndaajustice.org) / 703-519-1644